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‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar

The Jurist

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)



Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our children and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In this book, '*Abdullah bin 'Umar-The Jurist*', we will learn about the life of one of the most famous Companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Abdullah bin 'Umar ؓ was one of the youth who grew up in the presence of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions. His sharp memory, righteous character and devotion to imitating the Prophet's lifestyle in all matters, made him develop into one of the greatest scholars that Islam has ever known.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We at *Darussalam* realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim children, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our children. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker, and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager



Foreword

Any preacher might have many followers who seek to learn the teachings of religion from him. However, few of them truly understand the themes that the preacher was teaching them. A student might have something that interferes with his learning. Another one might not be fully interested in the knowledge given to him and hence loses most of the things he learnt from his teacher. However, there are followers who dedicate all their time and efforts to gaining as much knowledge as they can. Not only this, but also they follow every act and deed of their teacher. They cling to their teacher's directions under all conditions.

In this concise biography, we are going to have a look at the life of a Companion of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who was a great example of a devout follower. As a result of his keen dedication, he became one of the most prominent jurists of Islam.

Since childhood, the man was brought up amongst the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ who were the best of people. He belonged to a very good family both in morals and knowledge. His family members were not only well known for their knowledge, but were also people whom Allâh had blessed with justice and wisdom. His father was one of the few people who knew how to read and write in the period before Islam.

Introduction

Arabs before the rise of Islam

The Arab society in the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding areas mainly consisted of tribes and clans. Some of them lived in towns while most of them followed their flocks everywhere in the desert in search of food and water. These tribes were usually involved in wars amongst each other. Every tribe was invading and invaded by other tribes.

The gloom that loomed over the Arabian Peninsula and the world in general before the rise of Islam killed nearly every virtue in the minds and hearts of human beings at that time. Human rights, for example, were not given any value. Slavery, burying girls alive and injustices were dominating the societies of the city and desert alike. Youth and old were spending their time in grazing animals or practicing trade during the daytime and seeking trivial pleasures during the night. The guidance brought by previous religions was absent from the life of people. There was no central government; rather, every tribe had its own chief and customs in spite of the fact that some common laws were prevailing in the society.

The people of Arabia were largely idol worshippers. A number of Jews and Christians were scattered here and there, but their practice of their religions had greatly diminished. Every Arab tribe had its own deities and its own forms of worship. The Ka'bah in Makkah was itself surrounded with hundreds of idols which were considered by Makkans as gods.

All these vices and atrocities urgently needed a Messenger from Allâh to reform the society and spread guidance throughout the Arabian Peninsula in particular and the world in general.

Advent of Islam

The child Muhammad ﷺ grew up in such an environment. When he became a young man, he kept himself away from the evils and vices of the day. Like other youth, he used to graze his uncle's flocks. He was well behaved and was loved and respected by all those who came in contact with him. He was well known to be sincere and trustworthy to the extent that he was called *Al-Ameen* (trustworthy) by people. He did not like the ways that his peers were following to satisfy their desires. He even could not bear the idea to stand before any idol pleading for help. He sometimes engaged in trade on behalf of wealthy men. It is well known that he visited Damascus twice before he was commissioned with the message of Islam. On the way there, many signs

steadfastness. All means to make them abandon their Faith were of no avail. The torture they received at the hands of the pagans did not succeed in making them even say one word against their Faith. Some of them were even killed under torture.

Attempts of the Quraish to stop the Call

The chiefs of the Quraish were furious to see Islam spread among people. In the beginning, they tried their best to make the followers of Islam recant. When they could not force the believers to give up their Faith, they began accusing the Prophet ﷺ of things that they themselves knew were untrue. They alleged that Muhammad ﷺ was a magician or a liar, although they themselves used to call him the trustworthy. However, all their attempts were of no avail. They followed another direction. They began negotiating with the Prophet ﷺ and his uncle to reach a compromise. They told the Prophet ﷺ that they would make him a king or give him all the money he might ask for. However, the Prophet ﷺ rejected all of their worldly proposals and continued preaching the message of Islam to all humanity.



A New Life

Makkah and the new Message

Makkah, the major city of the Arabian Peninsula, was on the verge of turmoil. All the people were speaking of a man named Muhammad ﷺ who had been sent by Allâh with a new religion to take them out of the darkness of ignorance to the light of guidance.

Muhammad ﷺ was a man well known among his tribesmen for his honesty and truthfulness. He belonged to the tribe of the Quraish, which was the most noble and powerful tribe at the time.

Three years had now passed since the Angel Gabriel visited Muhammad ﷺ for the first time commanding him to proclaim the Oneness of Allâh (Monotheism). It was time for the Arabian Peninsula and the whole world to change. There was a great need for a new light to shine over the earth taking human beings out of the darkness that they had been living in.

Makkans were idol worshippers. The rich among them oppressed the poor and the powerful treated the weak with cruelty. The people of Makkah and other Arabs were burying female babies alive for fear that they would bring shame to them. The Ka'bah was filled with about 360 idols which were worshipped by the people at that time.

The Quraish, being the most powerful tribe, was the custodians of the Ka'bah. They rejected the Prophet's invitation to Islam and to the worship of the One and only Allâh Alone. They did not want to put an end to the evil ways that they were practicing. Although the Quraish knew that the man who brought this message was distinct among them, they refused to accept it. They did not want to give up worshipping their false deities. They did not listen to the frequent calls of the Prophet ﷺ to accept Islam and stop placing partners with Allâh. Only a few people, who were mostly weak, accepted the message.

'Abdullah's household

During this time, 'Abdullah was born to a good family that was well known for its dignity and honor. His father, 'Umar, was one of the strongest men of the Quraish and belonged to a household known as Makhzoom.

In the beginning and for several years, 'Abdullah's father kept himself away from the light brought by the Prophet ﷺ. Actually he was a bitter enemy of Islam. He badly treated all his relatives who accepted Islam. He was even beating his female slave harshly to make her abandon her new religion. When he found no way to stop Islam, he thought of killing the Prophet ﷺ. In order to kill him, he took his sword and went to where the Prophet ﷺ was teaching his Companions. On the way there, he met one of his relatives who had already accepted Islam and kept it secret. The man knew of his evil intentions and wanted to divert his way. He told him that his sister Fatimah and her husband Sa'eed had accepted Islam and that it was better for him to control his family before killing the Prophet ﷺ. He rushed to his sister's house where he heard some Verses of the Qur'ân. At that point he realized that the Qur'ân was the true Word of Allâh and that it was time for him to accept Islam as a way of life.

The Change

'Abdullah saw this change in the life of his father when he was only seven years old. After his father had accepted Islam, he accompanied his father to meet the Prophet ﷺ and declare that he also had become a Muslim.

wounded. Thus, the Muslims lost the Battle of Uhud.

‘Abdullah ﷺ was deeply saddened by the loss, but he remained strong in his belief in Allâh. He knew that the Muslims would never abandon their Faith for losing one battle.

‘Abdullah’s efforts in the Trench Battle

The chiefs of the Quraish were happy to defeat the Muslims in the Battle of Uhud. They decided to continue their vicious efforts to fight the last battle against Islam. They thought that the Muslims would not be able to withstand another battle. They gathered ten thousand men from all tribes of Arabia and marched toward Al-Madinah seeking to give a lethal blow to the Muslims. Even the Jews, who previously held covenants with the Muslims to support them against their enemies, broke their promises and agreed with the disbelievers to help them against the Muslims.

The Muslims were not sure what to do in the face of this huge army. The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions discussed several options but could not reach a final decision. Salman Al-Farisi ؓ, a Muslim from Persia, finally convinced the Muslims to dig a trench around Al-Madinah to defend themselves against the huge army of the Quraish.

‘Abdullah ؓ, now fifteen years old, was given the chance to share with the other Muslims in the

coming battle. He joined his fellow Muslims in digging the trench and did all he could to prove that he was able to defend his religion and people.

The idolaters tried to attack the Muslims and break into Al-Madinah. They were surprised to see a wide trench separating them from achieving their goal. The trench was a military trick unknown to the Arabs. No real combat took place; there was only minor fighting. After a siege on Al-Madinah for about a month, the Quraish realized that they were not able to get to the Muslim army, so they left back to their homes in despair and humiliation.

‘Abdullah ؓ joins the Prophet ﷺ and other Muslims to perform Pilgrimage

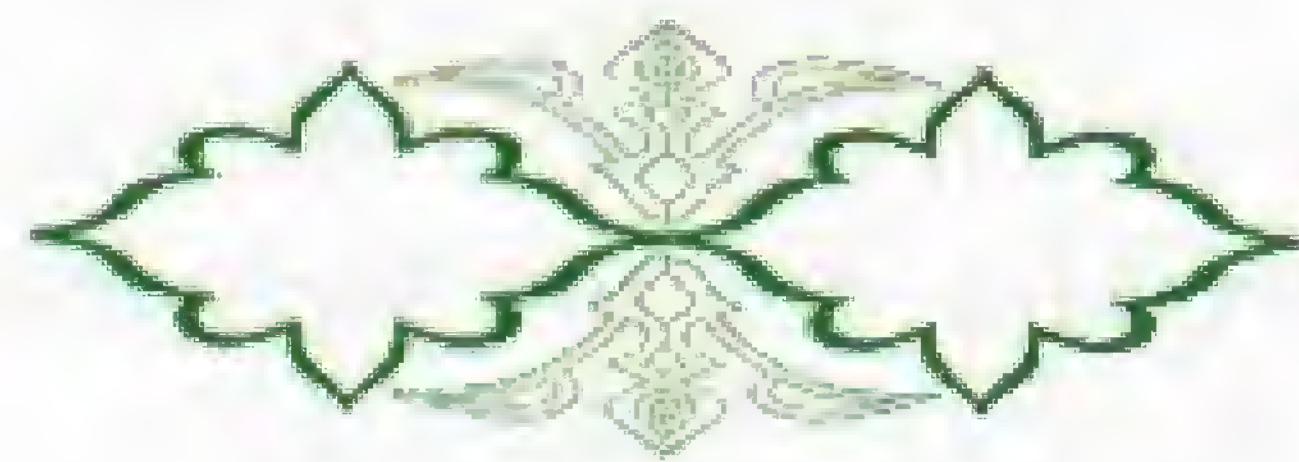
Years passed by like a dream. ‘Abdullah ؓ was day after day getting more steadfast in Islam, until he occupied a strong position among the Muslims. He joined the Prophet ﷺ on his trip to Makkah, hoping to perform pilgrimage. However, he became sad because the pagans prevented the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions from visiting the Ka‘bah and performing pilgrimage. Yet, he was sure that the agreement concluded with the Quraish was a step toward achieving his hopes of a day when all Muslims would freely and peacefully visit Makkah and perform pilgrimage the way they

"I counted the things in 'Abdullah's house and found them equal to one hundred dirhams in all."

'Abdullah ﷺ always spent his earnings on the poor and needy and never left himself any wealth to satisfy his own needs. He loved to eat with the poor and needy. He always warned people of getting too involved with the pleasures of life. He reminded them not to forget that one day they would leave everything behind and be asked on the Day of Reckoning about the things they did in this life.

He always told his students:

"Always follow the example of Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions, for they were the best on earth, the most pious, the highest in knowledge and the least arrogant."



The Great Teacher

As much as 'Abdullah ﷺ liked to learn, he also was keen to teach what he had learned. He felt that depriving other people a chance to learn was something that Allâh would punish one for. Therefore, he spent most of his time teaching his students about Islam. Many scholars of *Shari'ah* (Islamic law) in the following centuries learned a lot from the works of 'Abdullah ﷺ. He was well respected for his strict way of applying the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. Anyone who studies Islamic law will definitely come across the name of 'Abdullah bin 'Umar ﷺ for he was a great teacher and scholar.

'Abdullah ﷺ narrated many *Ahadith* (sayings of the Prophet ﷺ). He took great care to memorize such sayings as he heard them from the Prophet ﷺ. His knowledge was, and is still to this day, passed down to students of knowledge and scholars alike. No scholar of Islam could do without the teachings of 'Abdullah ﷺ, because they were strictly founded on the Qur'ân and *Sunnah*.

A man once addressed him saying:

"You are the best man from the best origin."
'Abdullah ﷺ replied: "I am not the best man from the best origin. I am only a servant of Allâh. I always fear to be punished by Him."